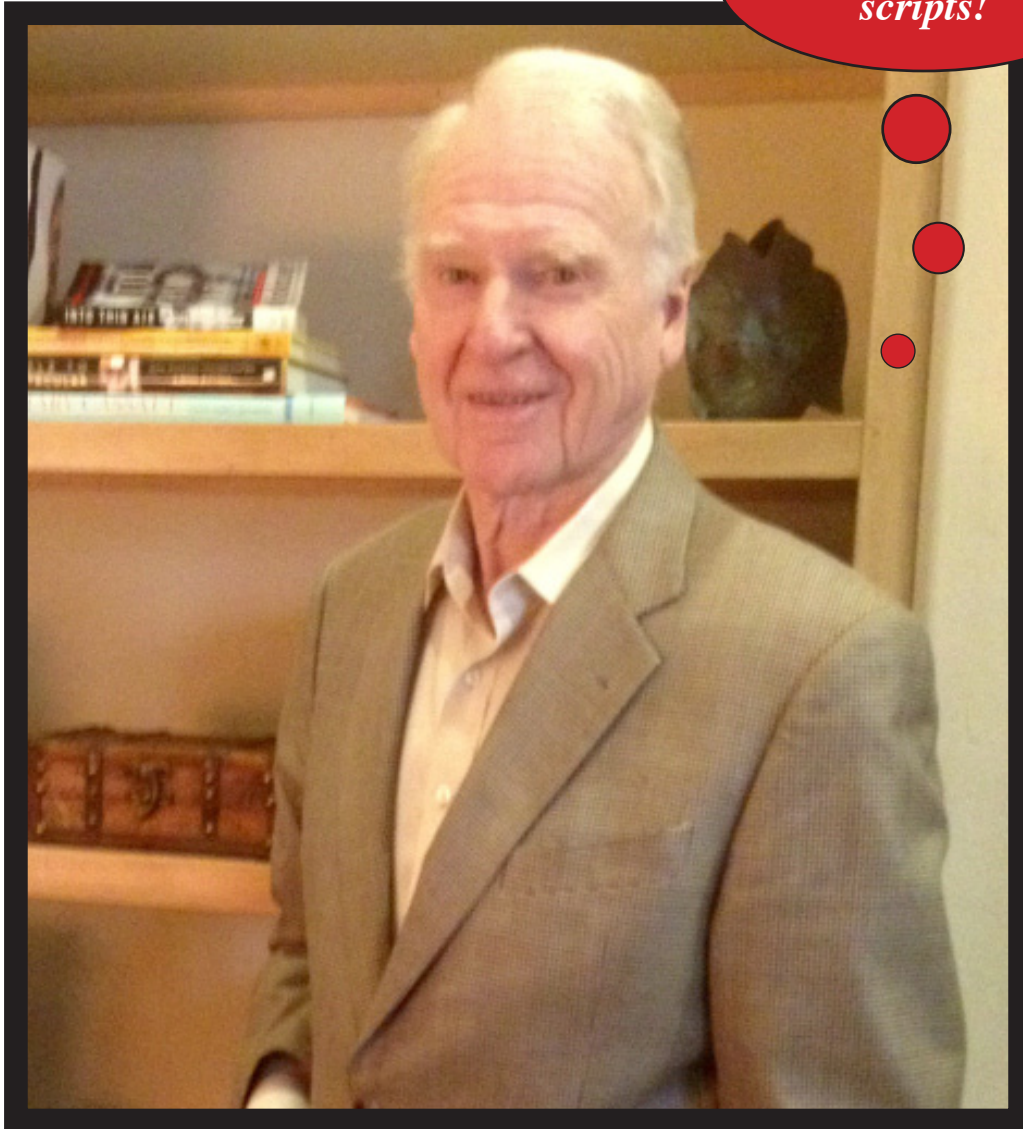


PWR Newsletter



*I have published
scripts!*



Ron Wren

PWR's Current President



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR



A Club to Celebrate and Support Aspiring and Published Authors



February 2, 2019

Volume VIII, Issue 2

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Fall Bazaar: Lee Gale Gruen

President Emeritus: Duke Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Paul Weisser

Coming up!

PWR's Monthly Meeting

This Saturday, February 2, 2019

From 9:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

In the Fairway Room at Creekside Clubhouse

Come early and enjoy complimentary coffee or tea!

February's Speaker: Molly Williams of Big Hat Press

BY PETER LI



Peter Li

At PWR's monthly meeting on February 2, 2019, the guest speaker will be Molly Williams, the Publishing Director of Big Hat Press. Molly's dual topics will be "Designing Book Interiors" and "Post-CreateSpace/KDP Merger: What's New and Different with KDP?" (KDP stands for Kindle Direct Publishing.)

Molly will discuss the many elements that go into a book's interior design. These include such topics as font selection, formatting text, pagination, headers and footers, display pages such as chapter openings, and frontmatter and backmatter elements.

Molly will also talk about the changes that have occurred since CreateSpace merged with KDP. Molly is a popular

speaker, who has addressed prospective and published authors about the do's and don'ts of self-publishing and the importance of cover as well as interior design.

Molly has been working in publishing for the past eleven years. At Big Hat Press, she handles all the details of publishing, from cover and interior design, graphics, and eBook creation, to book printing and working with KDP. She works with her clients from start to finish, personalizing the publishing experience.



Molly Williams

Big Hat Press, located in Lafayette, is a member of the Association of American Book Publishers and is a full-service boutique publisher. Molly, who received her training in Graphic Communication from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, will emphasize the fact that, given the popularity of self-publishing

(continued on page 4)

today, “it is critically important that authors construct their books properly to stand out from the crowd and look as professional as possible.” □

(The Published Writers of Rossmoor meets monthly at the Fairway Room of the Creekside Clubhouse, with complimentary refreshments at 9:45 A.M. and a formal meeting and presentation from 10:00 A.M. until noon. Published and aspiring writers are invited to attend the meetings and learn about the benefits of membership, which may include appearances on Rossmoor’s Channel 28, book launch parties, and assistance in publishing and promoting your books.)



Interviews on Channel 28

BY JOANNA KRAUS



Joanna Kraus

If you have a new book, are a paid-up member of PWR, and want to be interviewed on Channel 28, the next taping will be on Monday morning, March 18, 2019.

The 30-minute slots are limited, so please be sure to get your copy of your new book and your filled-out information form to me no later than February 15.

Your book will be returned to you by Frances Chin once the interview has been taped, edited, and aired.

Please note that you are responsible for finding your own interviewer.

For further information, you can reach me at: (925) 939-3658 or tjkraushouse@hotmail.com/. □

(Find out about my new children’s books, *Blue Toboggan* and *Bravo, Benny*, at: www.joannakraus.com/.)

The President's Page

BY RON WREN



Ron Wren

*The poets of PWR have stories to tell to all.
In rhyme and in verse
They'll overcome adverse
Comments and have a memorable ball.*

No, it's not a corrupt iambic pentameter version of "A dark and stormy night...." It's a new feature of your monthly *PWR Newsletter* called Poetry Corner.

Another new feature is Six-Word Stories.



If you are just finishing your book, you'll want to attend the February 2 meeting, when Molly Williams of Big Hat Press will tell us about the do's and don'ts of cover and interior illustrations. She'll also discuss frontmatter and backmatter elements and font selection (stay away from *Trattatello & point italic*).

Coffee and tea start at 9:45 A.M., the meeting begins at 10:00, and we'll have

you on your way home by noon. Guests, visitors, and itinerant poets (with or without portfolio) are invited to join us in the Fairway Room of the Creekside Clubhouse. □

(For further information, contact Ronwren@aol.com)



On Writers and Writing

BY RICHARD MCLEAN



Richard McLean

Writers: The Under-Appreciated Architects of Change (Part 1)

In the movie *Sunset Boulevard*, the William Holden character extols the immense contribution of writers to a scoffing Gloria Swanson when he says, “Where do you think the words you actors speak come from? Where do you think the plots for motion pictures originate? And who writes the words that make politicians sound smart? Writers, that’s who.”

Many professional writers agree, pointing out the unrecognized army of wordsmiths who make comedians sound witty and fuel the immense storyboard verbiage of television, as well as the heart-rending passages that actors speak. This is not to forget the originators of the mountains of words that fuel our daily press.

Also unrecognized are the words that change history and many of the writers who provided the concepts and ringing

phrases that literally altered their times.

Writers Who Defined America

It is claimed that America is not a geographic entity but a unique concept of liberty and freedom under the rule of law. This is often called “the American Dream.” We celebrate here those writers who, through the years, have defined and perpetuated this compelling perspective.

Common Sense

In 1776, Tom Paine, philosopher and political activist, published and promulgated pamphlets, *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis*, which outlined the intellectual underpinnings for why the colonies should separate from England, by revolution if necessary. John Adams said of Paine, “Without the pen of Sam Adams, the sword of George Washington would have been raised in vain.”

Example:

These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

The Declaration of Independence

Thomas Jefferson, with help from Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, drafted the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified and printed on July

4, 1775, but not widely distributed for weeks in order to give the signers time to provide for their safety. Every sponsor of this incendiary document literally put his head in the noose, considered a traitor by the British.

Example:

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Constitution of the United States

A constitution was crucial in 1787 as a founding compact that welded the thirteen colonies into a nation with input from delegates of each of the states-to-be. James Madison, the principal advocate, authored the document, with Gouverneur Morris penning the final work while adding its poetic preamble.

Example:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

The Star-Spangled Banner

During the ill-advised War of 1812,

when the British fleet was bombarding Fort McKinley at the entrance to Baltimore harbor, Francis Scott Key, an American lawyer and poet, emerged next morning to find that the outsized, tattered flag still waved, signaling that Baltimore was saved and the battle won. There he penned his famous poem that also established the military might of the new nation that had defeated the British twice. The poem was set to music by different composers and became popular patriotic anthems through the years. In 1917, it was arranged into an “official” musical version with the help of John Philip Sousa. In 1931, it became our national anthem.

Example—Third Verse:

*Blest with victory and peace, may the
heav’n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and
preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause
it is just,
And this be our motto: “In god is our
trust. □*

(Continued next month...)

(Dick McLean would welcome any comments at tellastoryd@comcast.net)



Living in Retirement

BY JON FOYT



Jon Foyt

My sixteenth novel is about to be published, with a book launch scheduled around my 87th birthday on June 4th.

The title is *The Third Half of Our Lives: Two Old Guys Not Selling Anything*.

As you may have guessed, it's a story about living in a fictionalized retirement community.

Apart from your argument that three halves can't make a whole, it's sure to evoke your reaction. Nevertheless, Kirkus Reviews has signed on with a positive review, as have a number of retirees.

Will you join in? □



Six-Word Stories

*Free trumpet, son bored,
neighbors thrilled."*

—Lee Gale Gruen



I faced the music and danced.

—Peggy Snyder



*Exact opposite: real news,
fake President.*

—Duke Robinson



Poetry Corner

Aging Gracefully

BY MARY JEAN BOYDEN

I hate to be glum, but I think me olde Mum
Might have been just a bit more
forthcoming.

Bring me more up to speed;
Before going to seed
With the thrill of recalcitrant plumbing!

For example, let's say, when greeting the
day,
With a "Hi Ho, the sun, it is shining!"
Your blanket's a heap,
Catching one leg asleep,
and embedding your foot in the lining.

How come from my shoes, to my two
baby blues
Things that used to line up are now
sagging?
Headed straight for the floor
Need I really say more
As the shell, it seems to be dragging!

If it ain't written down, I'll be going to
town
With no recollection of planning.
Whatever to buy
In fact, where am I?
Buying groceries, new drugs, or fry-
panning.

So—to end this sad dirge, let me play on
the verge
of the humor that takes us through strife

Stay up to date
It's never too late
To keep to the bright side of life! □

(Thanks for your time—and patience!)



Life's Mystery

BY BEN ZIKRIA

Ever since the World of Light has poured
into the sea
Ever since the seas have poured from the
clouds so freely
Ever since the Sacred Soul soared into a man
so free
The seas will rise, the streams will flow
And Life from one light into another light
will grow. □



The Sum of All Mornings

BY PATRICIA TESCHNER

From the white farmhouse window,
let your eyes wander up and over
the gentle slopes of prairie grass,
the hills singing their slow, soothing
lullaby of peace for the baby
cradled against your shoulder,
the sweet smell of innocence
echoed by the fertility
of the viridescent earth.

Look out upon the green fields,
where clouds build into thunderheads,
their dark underbellies spilling rain,
racing across the prairie as if alive,
their menacing blackness brimming
with anguish, lamenting the sufferings
of the lost and loveless,
those overflowing with the fire of rage.
Oh, night sky, roiling with thunderous
gods
exploding a distant copse of
cottonwoods,
the sun rides behind your departure,
the sum of all mornings entrusted to
a new awakening day.

Roam through the morning fields,
tears of dew clinging to your legs,
soaking the hem of your skirt,
bare feet slick on sharp-bladed grass.
Welts from tiny cuts itch and swell,
but do not deter the moment's
exploration.
Yellow and black bumblebees
move about in a slow, meandering
dance.

Butterflies adorned with giddiness
bear the weight of nectar collected
from the bright heads of yarrow,
columbine, spears of giant hyssop.

A little child in ragged overalls,
her thin arms holding
a bouquet of blue cornflowers
sucks on a stem of wild grass,
her boundless joy only a vision of
yourself
at an early age, codified in memory
as a pledge you made to always
remember
this time and place.

Look out upon the green fields,
think of love you had to earn
and love that was given freely as fresh
flowers
on a spring day, the first love of your
life,
perhaps the last you'll ever know,
as you walk into old age, reminiscing,
that even after you left, the far-
reaching prairie
found a permanent home in you. □



(continued on page 11)

The Dog with the Blue Collar

BY JON FOYT

Paw steps, rapid, behind me, running,
Fright as I run the paved path
a dog with a blue collar
...suddenly upon me

Early morning, cold, very early, quiet.
He comes alongside, looks up, goes past
the dog with the blue collar
...now there

Mile Four, the main highway, but no cars,
Surely he will turn back home now
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

Miles, more miles, past Green Lake, morning mist
rises, engulfs us all, mystifies
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

Remote Whistler Valley's trees, mountains,
once, not long ago, the wild frontier
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

A highway to the world's end, we run
the line, and consume the morning
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

A drink from a trickling hillside falls,
laps from water by the culvert
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

Eleven Miles, stop to stretch my muscles,
his nose nuzzles, pushes, urges
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

Turn around, the long hilltop reached,
Garibaldi's Park, an entrance ahead
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

Railroad ties and rails, parallel, level
by the highway now, we run on
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

He selects a worn log, carries it
through the highway as it curves
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

A giant log truck down from the clear cut.
Voice command, now, to the roadside
the dog with blue collar
...still there

We turn, finally, at Mile 20, retake
the bike path, near now the homes
the dog with the blue collar
...still there

Growing tired now, nearer the Lodge
completing my run, he vanishes
the dog with the blue collar
...suddenly gone

Fatigue, stop, energy spent, shy of
22 miles, no nuzzles, no urges
the dog with the blue collar
...not there now □



(continued on page 12)

Honeysuckle
BY ESTELLE WATTS

We see the honeysuckle covering the
fence.
It cascades in all directions,
so full of itself it cannot stop.
An abundance of flowers,
delicate whites and palest yellow
give off perfume that lures us and the bees.
We come close and push our noses in the
vine
hoping to get the most we can of scent
and dew like nectar.
We pick a flower and suck the nectar from
the bud, sweet syrup that is served in tiny
cups.
We join the bees in their domain.
We trespass on their turf.
They buzz around us but tolerate our
presence.
Perhaps they know there's
smell and taste in such abundance,
that they can share, and still
have ample gifts to bring their queen. □

(Dedicated to a bush we loved as children.)



In the Ceramic Studio
BY SHOSHANA KOBRIN

Primeval mud
Moving with my hands
Forgiving, receptive
Form from formless
A child once more am I
Fingers shaping
Pathways to creation
The monkey mind is stilled
And I am blessed □

(From A Tempo: Seasons of a Life—Poetry and Paintings by Shoshana Kobrin, 2018)



PWR Writing & Publication Resources

BY RON WREN



Ron Wren

The following PWR members are available for consultation on various aspects of writing and publication:

Art & Design

Polly Bernson: drpplot@pacbell.net

Children's Books

Joanna Kraus: tjkraushouse@hotmail.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Desktop Publishing

Polly Bernson: drpplot@pacbell.net

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Editing & Proofreading

Julie Blade: julieblade@gmail.com

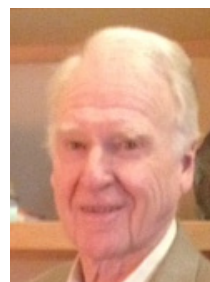
Ellen Sarbone: editor@etraveller.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Fiction

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Ben Zikria: baz2@columbia.edu



Ghostwriting

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Ellen Sarbone: editor@etraveller.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Grant Writing

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Memoir Assistance

Julie Blade: julieblade@gmail.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

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Ellen Sarbone: editor@etraveller.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Ron Wren: ronwren@aol.com

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Playwriting

Joanna Kraus: tjkraushouse@hotmail.com

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Ben Zikria: baz2@columbia.edu

Promotion & Publicity

Ron Wren: ronwren@aol.com

Screenwriting

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Speeches & Dramatic Coaching

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com



From the Editor



Paul Weisser

A member of PWR recently wrote to me, “I miss your excellent contributions of great writers’ personal biographies. There is a hole in the *PWR Newsletter*.”

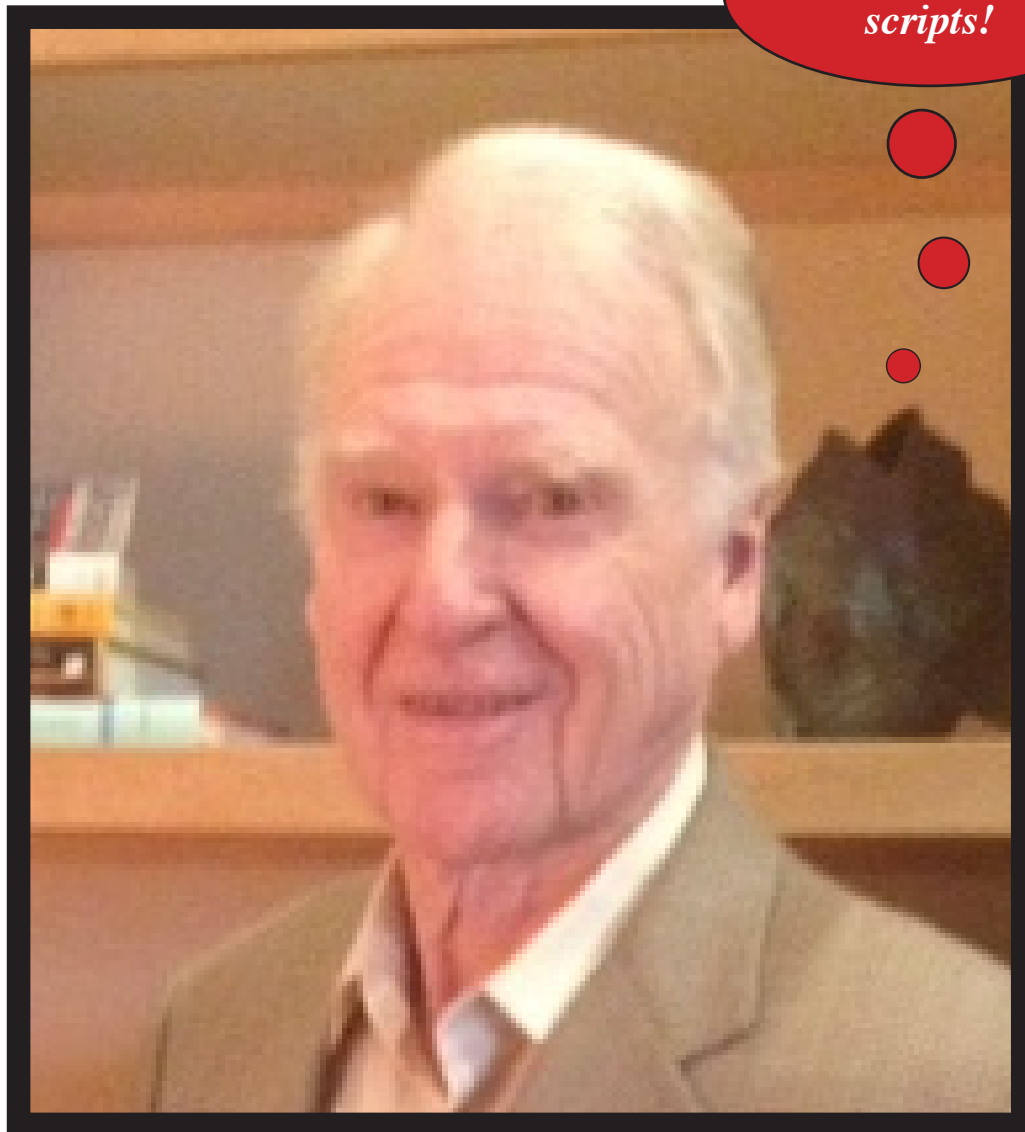
That “hole” is quickly being filled by the members. With this issue of the *Newsletter*, we have two new features, Poetry Corner and Six-Word Stories. I invite members to contribute to these features every month, and to suggest others! □



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